

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 02311 211619Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----211637Z 046630 /56
O R 211532Z APR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3059
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2311

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, NAC
SUBJECT: APRIL 21 PERMREPS DISCUSSION OF US PROPOSALS
FOR THE LONDON SUMMIT

REF: USNATO 2281 (DTG 200930Z APR 77)

SUMMARY: AT A PRIVATE PERMREPS MEETING APRIL 21, PERMREPS
EMPHASIZED THEIR DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL TO WASHINGTON IN PRE-
PARING FOR THE SUMMIT, EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS REGARDING
PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF US PROPOSALS, AND AGAIN UNDERLINED THEIR
HOPE FOR EARLY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT: END SUMMARY.

1. EXPLAINING THAT HE HAD CALLED THE MEETING IN RESPONSE
TO REQUESTS BY SEVERAL PERMREPS, ACTING SYG PANSA SAID HE
UNDERSTOOD THERE WAS A DESIRE TO COMPARE NOTES ON PREPARATIONS
FOR LONDON AND ON BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON
REGARDING US PROPOSALS.

2. IN WELCOMING THE MEETING, KILLICK (UK) SAID ALL ALLIES
WERE DELIGHTED AT THE PROSPECT OF THE PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPA-
TION, WANTED TO ENSURE POSITIVE RESPONSE TO ANY PROPOSALS THE
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PAGE 02 NATO 02311 211619Z

PRESIDENT MIGHT MAKE, AND ALSO WANTED TO HELP AVOID ANY
NEGATIVE REACTION TO US PROPOSALS. ACCORDINGLY, HE BELIEVED
A COLLECTIVE DISCUSSION OF US PROPOSALS WAS ESSENTIAL AS WAS
THE NEED FOR THE ALLIES TO HAVE A COMMON BASIS FOR SUCH A
DISCUSSION. KILLICK THEN CIRCULATED A BRIEF PAPER SETTING
FORTH "ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN PROPOSALS PUT TO THE BRITISH
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON BY MR. HENRY OWEN." KILLICK SUMMARIZED
THE UK RESPONSE, EMPHASIZING GENERAL UK SUPPORT FOR THE US
PROPOSALS ALONG WITH USK RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE ESTAB-
LISHMENT OF A PANEL OF OUTSIDE ADVISORS TO LOOK AT DEFENSE

EQUIPMENT PLANS AND A PANEL OF PLANNERS TO ASSIST IN THE PROPOSED STUDY ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, KILLICK BELIEVED THAT AN EXISTING BODY LIKE THE ATLANTIC POLICY ADVISORY GROUP (APAG), POSSIBLY AUGMENTED BY SOME OUTSIDE EXPERTS, MIGHT BE TASKED TO UNDERTAKE THE EAST-WEST STUDY.

3. CATALANO (ITALY) OUTLINED HIS AUTHORITIES' RESPONSE TO THE US PROPOSALS, AND NOTED THE VALUE OF DISCUSSING THESE PROPOSALS IN THE COUNCIL SO THAT ALLIES COULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE REACTIONS OF OTHER ALLIES. A/SYG MUMFORD COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON THE NEED TO TRY TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EXISTING DEFENSE PLANNING MACHINERY IN ANY EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ALLIANCE IN THIS AREA.

4. SCHUURMANS (BELGIUM) REVIEWED THE REACTION OF HIS AUTHORITIES, NOTING THEIR VIEW THAT WHAT THE ALLIANCE NEEDED MOST WAS POLITICAL WILL TO MAKE EXISTING NATO MECHANISMS FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY. BACON (CANADIAN CHARGE) SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE US PROPOSALS WITH OTTAWA. WHILE HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS, HE BELIEVED HIS AUTHORITIES WELCOMED THE THRUST OF THE US PROPOSALS BUT MIGHT BE CONCERNED WITH SUGGESTIONS TO OVERLAY OR DUPLICATE EXISTING MECHANISMS SINCE SOME OVERHAUL OR MINOR REORGANIZATIONS MIGHT BETTER SERVE ALLIED OBJECTIVES.

5. SVART (DENMARK) WELCOMED THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG PERMREPS ON THIS ISSUE AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT EXISTING CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 02311 211619Z

ALLIANCE MACHINERY WOULD BE USED TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. CITRON (FRG CHARGE) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WELCOMED THE US PROPOSALS AS AIMED CLEARLY AT STRENGTHENING THE ALLIANCE AND WOULD ALSO WELCOME CONSULTATION AMONG THE ALLIES REGARDING THESE PROPOSALS. VIBE (NORWAY) EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT AN ADVERSE IMPRESSION COULD BE CONVEYED IF A PROPOSAL FOR A LONG-TERM STUDY ON TRENDS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE AND IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS WAS LAUNCHED PUBLICLY AT THE LONDON SUMMIT. WHILE ALLIED STUDIES OF THESE ISSUES WERE OF GREAT UTILITY, THEY SHOULD BE CONDUCTED PR
B Y.#

6. IN SUMMING UP, PANSA, WHOSE REMARKS WERE SUPPORTED BY SEVERAL PERMREPS, URGED THE CHARGE TO CONVEY TO WASHINGTON THE COUNCIL'S HOPE THAT THE US WOULD NOW CONSULT PROMPTLY IN THE NAC ON ITS TENTATIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE LONDON SUMMIT, FOLLOWING THE ROUND OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS THROUGH ALLIED EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON. PERMREPS ALSO STRESSED THAT THEIR INITIATIVE IN ASKING FOR TODAY'S MEETING WAS PREDICATED ON THEIR DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL TO WASHINGTON. THE CHARGE ASSURED PERMREPS THAT HE WOULD CONVEY THEIR VIEWS TO HIS AUTHORITIES.

7. COMMENT: AS A RESULT OF THIS MEETING, AND EARLIER PERMREPS EXCHANGES REGARDING POSSIBLE US INITIATIVES, COUNCIL MEMBERS

EXPECT THE US TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY IN THE VERY NEAR
FUTURE FOR A STRUCTURED DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT. PEREZ

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 30-Aug-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO02311
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197704102/baaabdcdb.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 97fbb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: USNATO 2281 (DTG 200930Z APR 77)
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2666709
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APRIL 21 PERMREPS DISCUSSION OF US PROPOSALS FOR THE LONDON SUMMIT
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, NAC
To: STATE INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/97fbb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009